

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating and controlling route-based delivery of an orders for goods from a central servicing warehouse to a remote ship-to sites, comprising:

one or more self-service drop-off containers located at the remote ship-to site;

an inventory control system associated with the one or more drop-off containers;

a manifesting system in communication with the inventory control system, the manifesting system implementing a manifesting process to manage and document the location and status of the order for goods, associated inventory of goods in the central servicing warehouse, and the hand-off at the remote ship-to site of custody of the order for goods between parties involved in the process via a deposit of the order for goods into the one or more self-service drop-off containers located at the remote ship-to site; and

a security monitoring system;

wherein the manifesting system further identifies and compiles into a draft manifest a logical grouping of all outstanding orders to be transported to ship-to sites on a specific route; converts the draft manifest to a committed manifest, where the committed manifest becomes the official, permanent record of the order for goods consigned to a delivery vehicle on that specific route, when it is determined that the draft manifest record accurately reflects the order for goods to be loaded on the delivery vehicle; and communicates the committed manifest to the inventory control system;

wherein the inventory control system logically checks off each good in the order for goods when the order for goods is deposited into the one or more self-service drop-off containers against a list of goods as indicated by the committed manifest and determines

whether any goods within the order for goods are either not expected or missing and, when it is determined that any goods within the order for goods are either not expected or missing, automatically generates and sends a communication alert to the security monitoring system.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the manifesting system posts the committed manifest into an order management system of a vendor of the goods to update records to reflect that the orders for goods have left the central servicing warehouse and are on route to the remote ship-to sites.

5. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the manifesting system posts the committed manifest into an inventory management system of a vendor of the goods to reflect that the orders for goods is now under the control of a driver of the delivery vehicle.

6 - 9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the inventory control system transmits delivery results to the manifesting system so that inventory records of the manifesting system may be updated to reflect that the orders for goods have been received at the ship-to site and are available for pick up by a customer from the one or more self-service drop-off containers.

11. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more self-service drop-off containers requires a customer to identify themselves appropriately using a previously determined PIN or ORN in order to be allowed access to goods within the ~~an~~ order for goods.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the inventory control system reports back to the manifesting system an acceptance and removal of a good within the order for goods from the one or more self-service, drop-off containers to the manifesting system so that order status and inventory records maintained by the manifesting system may be updated.

14. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the manifesting system causes billing of a customer in response to receiving a notification of the acceptance and removal of the good within the order for goods from the one or more self-service, drop-off containers by the customer.

15. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the manifesting system causes a debiting of a customer account in response to receiving a notification of the acceptance and removal of the good within the order for goods from the one or more self-service, drop-off containers by a customer.

16. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the inventory control system of a ship-to site initiates a goods return process for rejected orders, returned goods,

abandoned deliveries, or empty containers by creating a to-be-returned reverse logistics order in the manifesting system which functions to notify a vendor to expect goods for receipt back at the central servicing warehouse.

17. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the manifesting system responds to a to-be-returned logistics order by scheduling a driver to pick up the goods to be returned on a next visit to the ship-to site.

18. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 17, wherein the inventory control system records a time of pickup of goods to be returned and notifies the manifesting system of the time.

19. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein receipt of goods to be returned is confirmed by the central servicing warehouse and entered into the manifesting system.

20. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the manifesting system facilitates and controls route-based delivery of orders for goods by using an order cut-off time for all the ship-to sites on a specific delivery routes whereby customers will know a time by which to place an order for goods to ensure delivery at their chosen ship-to site within a given time frame.

21. (Original) The system as recited in claim 20, where the draft manifest is generated automatically in response to attaining the cut-off time for that route.

22 - 41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more self-service drop-off containers comprise a vending machine.

43. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more self-service drop-off containers comprises a will-call locker.